09/186,817 Notice of Allowability	Application No. 09/186,817	Applicant(s) RAPAICH, MARK	
	Examiner Lun-See Lao	Art Unit 2615	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *03-16-2006*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-17*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
      1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
      3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
   (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
   (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

   Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Scott Richardson on August 1, 2006.

3. The application has been amended as follows:

9. (Currently Amended) A method of routing digital audio to a plurality of digital-to-analog converters in a personal computer, wherein said plurality of digital- to-analog converters are configured as part of the personal computer, comprising the steps of:

receiving digital audio data from one of a plurality of digital audio sources; and routing the digital audio data to one of the plurality of converters based on desired converter quality;

wherein said routing of the digital audio data to one of said plurality of converters is performed by the personal computer.

11 (Currently Amended) A method of routing digital audio to a plurality

of audio digital-to analog converters in a personal computer, wherein said plurality of digital- to-analog converters are configured as part of the personal computer, comprising the steps of:

receiving digital audio from one of a plurality of digital audio sources;

assigning digital audio data from each of said plurality of digital audio sources a priority associated with a desired converter quality; and

muting the digital audio data to one of the plurality of convener in an order determined by the assigned data priority,

wherein said routing of the digital audio data to one of the plurality of converters is performed by the computer.

12 (Currently Amended) A personal computer system comprise

memory;

a processor;

a bus:

a plurality of digital-to-analog audio converters; and

a controller configured to receive digital audio signals from multiple sources and route the digital audio signals to a selected ones of the digital-to-analog audio converters based on desired converter quality;

wherein ~~at lest some of~~ said plurality of digital audio converters are configured as part of said personal computer system.

13. (Currently Presented) A method of routing digital audio signals in a personal computer, wherein said plurality of digital- to-analog converters are configured as part of the personal computer, comprising the steps of:

routing the digital audio signals which are from standard digital audio sources to a standard quality digital-to-analog converter; and

routing the digital audio signals which are from high-quality audio sources to a high-quality digital-to-analog converter; wherein said high-quality audio sources provide higher quality signals than said standard digital audio sources and said high-quality digital-to-analog converter produce a higher quality digital-to-analog conversion than said standard quality digital-to-analog converter;

wherein said routing of the digital audio data to one of the plurality of converters is performed by the computer.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-17 are allowed.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Vargo (US PAT. 6,356,545) teaches codec selection based on speech quality is performed in a internet telephone gateway system.

6. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Mail Stop ____(explanation, e.g., Amendment or After-final, etc.)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Facsimile responses should be faxed to:
(571) 273-8300

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:
Customer Service Window
Randolph Building
401 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lao,Lun-See whose telephone number is (571) 272-7501 The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 to 5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chin Vivian, can be reached on (571) 272-7848.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

Lao,Lun-See L.S.
Patent Examiner
US Patent and Trademark Office
Knox
571-272-7501
Date 08-01-2006

VIVIAN CHIN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600